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File

Senate Group Views Latest Thing in Bugs

Washington, Feb. 18 (UPI)—A spy in Hawaii could listen to a private conversation in Washington with an electronic gadget shown to Senate investigators today.

Engineers are working on a method by which a Laser-A concentrated beam of light—could be aimed at a house several blocks away and relay to snappers a perfect television-like picture—with sound—of what is going on inside.

Microphones can be planted in the olive of a martini.

Rose Is Not a Rose

An innocent-looking rose picked up and recorded the remarks of Sen. Edward V. Long (D-Mo.), today as his Senate subcommittee opened an inquiry into the new art of electronic snooping as it is practiced by government agencies.

A private detective and four manufacturers of electronic eavesdropping equipment showed the subcommittee what is possible in this field. After that, the inquiry was recessed until Tuesday when the subcommittee will try to determine whether some government agencies are guilty of unwarranted invasions of privacy.

New Superbug

The most frightening of the new gadgets was demonstrated by Emanuel Mittleman who operates the Wireless Guitar Co. in Manhattan.

He said the device can be attached to a telephone line so that a snooper can overhear all conversations in the room regardless

of whether the telephone is in use or on the hook.

All the snooper must do is dial the number of the telephone, connect by the line to which the device is attached—and with direct dialing, this could be anywhere in the United States.

Hard to Track

Mittleman said about a dozen of these devices have been sold—none to the government, so far as he knew. But he would not disclose names of the buyers.

He said the only way the device could be detected would be through a complicated reading of the power output of the telephone line.